

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

The amendment to Claim 1 is supported by the specification, particularly by page 26, third paragraph. Accordingly, no new matter is believed to have been added to the present application by the amendments submitted above.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-11 and 13-19 are pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to a process for producing a diene-based rubber-inorganic compound composite comprising a diene-based rubber and an inorganic compound represented by the following general formula (I), comprising

a step of mixing an inorganic compound and/or a material capable of forming said inorganic compound and an anionic surfactant having a carboxyl group or a fatty acid salt, and then mixing the same with a dispersion liquid of a diene-based rubber:



where M is at least one metal element selected from the group consisting of Al, Mg, Ti and Ca, metal oxide thereof or metal hydroxide thereof, and w, x, y, and z are an integer of from 1 to 5, an integer of from 0 to 10, an integer of from 2 to 5, and an integer of from 0 to 10, respectively

where the number-average particle diameter of the diene-based rubber-inorganic compound composite is 5mm or more.

See Claim 1.

The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) over Kondo is respectfully traversed. This reference fails to disclose the claimed diene-based rubber-inorganic compound composite.

Kondo discloses a rubber composition. See the Abstract. The reference fails to disclose the size of the particles. Accordingly, Kondo fails to disclose that the number-average particle diameter of the diene-based rubber-inorganic compound composite is 5mm or more, as specified in Claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, Kondo fails to disclose the claimed diene-based rubber-inorganic compound composite. Accordingly, this reference fails to anticipate the subject matter of the pending claims. Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Konno is respectfully traversed. This reference fails to disclose the claimed diene-based rubber-inorganic compound composite.

Konno discloses a diene rubber/inorganic compound composite. See the Abstract. The reference fails to disclose the size of the particles. Accordingly, Konno fails to disclose that the number-average particle diameter of the diene-based rubber-inorganic compound composite is 5mm or more, as specified in Claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, Konno fails to disclose the claimed diene-based rubber-inorganic compound composite. Accordingly, this reference fails to anticipate the subject matter of the pending claims. Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Gorl is respectfully traversed. This reference fails to suggest the claimed diene-based rubber-inorganic compound composite.

As specified in Claim 1, the number-average particle diameter of the present invention is “5mm or more.”

However, Gorl discloses “rubber powders” and that the rubber powders have a particle size of 0.025-3mm (column 7, lines 39-41). Moreover, the particle size of the rubber powder do not disclose in examples. That is, the particle size of the rubber powder discloses in Gorl is smaller than the present invention. Gorl provides no suggestion and no evidence to produce a diene-based rubber-inorganic compound composite having a large particle size.

The diene-based rubber-inorganic compound composite having large particle size is produced by the present invention. This composite is advantageous as compared with a composite having small particle size in that this composite is capable of improving an operation efficiency (present specification; page 1, last paragraph page 2, first paragraph and page 3, “DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION”). On the other hand, the object of Gorl is to provide a process for preparing a rubber powder which contains a large amount of filler (column 2, lines 60-64). Therefore, Gorl does not disclose the advantage of the present invention.

In view of the foregoing, Gorl fails to suggest the claimed diene-based rubber-inorganic compound composite. Accordingly, the subject matter of the pending claims is not obvious over this reference. Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

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Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

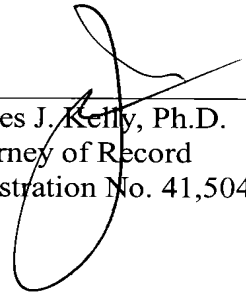
Respectfully submitted,

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